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on the state of Christendom. It is by virtue of this pragmatically idle work of supererogation that Botero had a large effect on the subsequent growth of statistics and demography as well as a large claim on the respect of the modern spokesmen of the science. As an example of this exuberant intellectual enterprise—excessive as judged from the pragmatic standpoint of the then current political writers—may be cited his theory of population quite suggestive of Malthus's *Principle*, as M. Magnaghi calls to mind (see ch. XXII.).

THORSTEIN VEBLEN.

*A Calendar of the Court Minutes, etc., of the East India Company, 1635-1639.* By ETHEL BRUCE SAINSBURY. With an Introduction and Notes by WILLIAM FOSTER. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1907. Pp. xxxvi, 396.)

THIS book is valuable for at least three reasons. It contains material for the domestic history of the East India Company, 1635-1639, a critical time and a period for which the printed documents are comparatively scarce; secondly, there is laid open here the outworking of the system of personal government under Charles I. in years when that system was at its strongest; and thirdly, we have the intimate records of a corporation in days when shareholders stormed in vain at directors, when accounts were not fully given to the public, when political henchmen and bosses and financial promoters and magnates had formed a long enduring yet tortuous and expensive connection.

The documents calendared follow those included in the last volume of Miss Sainsbury's *Calendar of State Papers*, East India series, and consist of the Court Minute-books, January 5, 1635-December 30, 1639. But there is the gap caused by a lost volume of manuscript, July, 1637-July, 1639. These are re-enforced by abstracts of some of the documents from the East India series at the Public Record Office and of a few from the India Office Records and by entries on Indian affairs for these years from the Domestic series, *Calendar of State Papers*. Some notion of the relative position and importance of this body of material may be got from the memoranda in Birdwood: *Report on the Old Records of the India Office*, pp. 15, 16, 21, 44, 65, 80, 82, 85, 89 (cf. also AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, XII. 878). Furthermore, some of the material here included was made use of by Hunter (*History of British India*, II., ch. 1.) and before him, though apparently to a less degree, by Bruce (*Annals of the East India Company*, I. 329-365). In particular the excellent introduction and serviceable index should be noted. We turn now to a few of the chief topics.

Information as to the local history of establishments in the East is for the most part indirect, for there are comparatively few letters from Asia. But the proceedings of the directors at home cast considerable light. Conditions were dubious. Thus the proposal to abandon Surat is debated and once resolved; complaints at the failure of the

Shah to keep his engagements as to Persian trade, the intrigues of the Dutch at Bantam, Pulo Run and elsewhere, and the dangers encountered by the company's agents owing to depredations by interlopers, are all recorded. When considered in connection with the serious financial situation at home and the consequent dissatisfaction of the generality, these events in the East emphasize the critical condition of the company.

No small part of these difficulties was due to the policy of the crown and the foundation under the authority of Charles I. of a rival association. Indeed Courten's Association is, in one sense, the principal subject of the volume. Such a creation was a violation of the East India Company's royal charter; but to the alarms and protests of concerned and doubtful directors the king answered that the reports regarding the new association were "vague and frivolous" (p. 142), and again, "'Upon the word of a King and as hee is a Christian King' no hindrance or damage is intended to the Company's trade, nor will these ships go where the Company have commerce, but for a voyage of discovery under Sir William Curteene, who is a responsible man" (p. 157). But a later grant under the great seal organized the new venture as a dangerous if not equal rival of the East India Company (p. 275); and the delimitation of spheres of trade was not of much satisfaction to the now disheartened company. Finally, however, the king was alarmed by the possibility that he might force the dissolution of the older company to the profit of the Dutch, who then "will give the law and sett the price upon all other trades of Europe" (p. 272). Therefore, on December 10, 1639, an order in council restored the old monopoly, and favorable prospects became more possible (p. 35).

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

*A Life of Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury.* Part I. *Scotland, 1643-1674*, by T. E. S. CLARKE, B.D. Part II. *England, 1674-1715*, by H. C. FOXCROFT. With an Introduction by C. H. FIRTH, M.A. (Cambridge: University Press. 1907. Pp. xlvii, 586.)

LIKE the proverbial tradesman, popularly supposed to be ill-provided himself with the commodities which he furnishes the public, Gilbert Burnet, to whom we are indebted for so much information concerning the men and events of his time, has had to wait nearly two centuries for an adequate biography. Hitherto, he has been known to us chiefly from the *History of his Own Times*, from the short life by his son appended to successive editions of that work, from Macaulay's and Lecky's famous characterizations, and from the searching though over-hostile estimate of Ranke. The *Life* just published by Mr. Clarke and Miss Foxcroft is a portly and dignified volume of nearly six hundred pages. Based on a careful and exhaustive study of original authorities, abundantly fortified with references and extracts, it sets